

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

June 27, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Burrell Carter, James Little, Don Thompson, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Thomas, Willie George Lee, Terry Louque

Vacancy: East Feliciana Parish

MEMBER ENTERED MEETING AT: Tamiara Wade 6:05 pm

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Babin.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items:
4. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve the May 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented.
5. Financial Statement Report:
 - Hoover presented to the Board the May 2017 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thibeau, second by Thompson to approve the May 2017 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
 - Amended Administrative Budget of 2016/17. As there were no public comments, the Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Bailey to adopt the Amended Administrative Budget of 2016/17, as presented.
6. Report by Executive Director:
 - ARBC Commissioner Tamiara Wade entered the meeting at this time, 6:07 p.m.
 - Funding status of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project, federal and non-federal: Discussed whether or not non-federal funding can be authorized to use toward the costs associated with construction to keep the project moving forward. Carter stated that Governor Edwards supports this project and is working to secure its funding through the state and federal government.
 - Rietschier reported he attended a Restore Louisiana Task Force meeting recently. Discussed efforts by other agencies regarding watersheds and floodplain management throughout the state.
 - Bob Jacobsen provided an update on the work in progress regarding a summary of streams for August 2016 flood profiles. Preliminary Profiles for the August 2016 Flood are being developed for 70 major streams within the Amite River Basin. The Preliminary Profiles are based on information from USGS Gauges, USGS High Water Marks, and the Amite River Basin Commission High Water Marks of 70 streams. Preliminary Profiles have been completed for 66 (934 miles)—with only four streams in the Upper Amite River Basin remaining to be completed.
 - Carter said it needs to be made clear that the Amite River Basin Commission has done everything it can to move the CRDC Project forward and the state is willing to do its part. He said the US Army Corps of Engineer's cooperation is needed.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to add to the agenda the item "DOTD Permit for Bypass Road US 61 Bridges." Susan Douglas, with DOTD, explained this permit is needed in advance so that it does not hold up any work. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson granting authorization to the Executive Director to sign the project permit that allows the DOTD to move forward.
 - DOTD Report –None.
7. ARBC Legal Counsel: Counsel reported that the Captial Outlay bill provided \$15 million in Priority One Funding. This will mean that DOTD will be able to continue purchasing property and the moving of utilities.
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business
10. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin
Ben Babin, ARBC President
Date: July 18, 2017

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau
Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary